UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.422
19 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 422ND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 21 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Opening of the session

Adoption of the agenda

Election of Vice-Chairpersons

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 of 9 December 1992

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRMAN declared the session opened. He pointed out that the Ad Hoc Committee was meeting that year in implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59, which requested the Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of not more than 10 working days. The wider participation evident at the current session signified greater interest in the questions under consideration and potential for constructive work.

2. General Assembly resolution 47/59 requested the Ad Hoc Committee to consider new alternative approaches for a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, taking into account the changing international situation. Further, it requested the Committee to address the complex ramifications of the issues involved and differing perceptions of those issues as well as the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

3. In the past, the Committee had concentrated its work on preparations for the Conference on the Indian Ocean. However, in 1992 the General Assembly had felt that the holding of the Conference scheduled for 1993 with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean was not possible. At the same time, the General Assembly had expressed its desire to continue its efforts to achieve the goal of peace and security in the Indian Ocean.

4. The participants in the session must make every endeavour to respond adequately to that challenge. Furthermore, the current session gave the participants an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to look at the issues before the Committee afresh in the changing international situation on the basis of a comprehensive and open approach.

5. The international situation was now more conducive to making progress towards achieving the goal of peace and security in the Indian Ocean region. First, the threat of a nuclear conflict had been reduced. Second, the new international political relations had improved the climate for the littoral and hinterland States, the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to work together to achieve peace and security in the region.

6. He pointed out that, in preparing for the current session, he had conducted extensive consultations with all the members of the Committee and through the regional groups, as a result of which new ideas had emerged, and he encouraged all delegations to engage in a free and open discussion within the terms of reference for the session outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/59.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The agenda was adopted.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

8. The CHAIRMAN said that one of the posts of Vice-Chairpersons remained vacant in view of the lack of a candidate from the Group of Eastern European States. The Group was currently holding consultations on that question and he would be immediately apprised of their results.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 OF 9 DECEMBER 1992

9. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that his country, which had participated in the deliberations of the Committee over the years in a sincere and forthright manner, attached great importance to its current session, which should provide a new opportunity to address the complex ramifications and differing perceptions of the question of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and the Committee's future role.

10. The 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace had come about in the context of the cold war and super-Power rivalry, which had particularly affected developing countries, a large number of which were situated in the Indian Ocean region. In the past few years, there had been monumental changes in the world and super-Power confrontation should be replaced by consensus on questions of international peace and security. Consequently, the Committee should consider arrangements that would ensure peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

11. At its 1992 session, the Committee had agreed on the need to consider new alternative approaches to achieving the objectives of the 1971 Declaration. That approach had been approved in General Assembly resolution 47/59. His delegation believed that the Committee had reached a crucial watershed in its existence, where it should engage in realistic and pragmatic efforts. It was necessary to formulate proposals responsive to the changed international situation, while keeping in mind the long-term objectives which the Committee had been established to achieve.

12. The 1971 Declaration remained the Committee's raison d'être. If, in the general opinion of its members, the Declaration had become irrelevant, the Committee should admit in its next report to the General Assembly that its original mandate had been affected by radical changes in the international environment. The Indian delegation was still of the opinion that the substance of the 1971 Declaration was relevant. It was therefore necessary to give careful consideration to a new role for the Committee based, not on immediate political impulses or short-term political situations, but rather on collective long-term commitments and common interests.

13. It had been frequently argued in the Committee's deliberations that a fundamental change of approach was required in order to encourage the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council since there could be no meaningful discussion of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean without the participation of those who had a military or naval presence in the

(Mr. Sreenivasan, India)

region. However, the question arose as to what role the Committee should play in the dialogue on regional disarmament and regional confidence-building measures. Several other forums already existed, such as the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and structures for regional cooperation.

14. The Committee's role in the changed circumstances should be defined with care and in a measured manner, taking into account past concerns, some of which might still be relevant, and current concerns resulting from the changed strategic equation and security environment in the Indian Ocean region.

15. In discussing regional confidence-building measures, the Committee must first reach consensus on the geographical boundaries of the region, which had never been conclusively defined. The existing membership of the Committee was a direct result of the super-Power rivalry of the past in that part of the world and the threat perceived by the littoral and hinterland States. In spite of the end of the cold war, some of those trends and threats remained, for example, demonstrations of military presence. It was against that background, that the Committee must conceive its future role, if it was to continue its work.

16. During informal consultations held the previous day, the Chairman had identified elements of an alternative approach. Elements such as regional confidence-building measures and regional disarmament were extremely important for establishing an atmosphere of peace in different parts of the world. However, they could not be applied to the Indian Ocean region without a discussion of the legitimate contours of the region. One could argue that a discussion of confidence-building measures should not be restricted to the members of the Committee, who had different historical, political, social and economic backgrounds, but must be open to all the Members of the United Nations.

17. India had always supported the idea of confidence-building measures at the bilateral level and had supported regional cooperation where various factors had permitted a clear definition of regions and zones. Therefore, the nature and scope of confidence-building measures that countries might find practical and feasible to engage in with others was a matter of sovereign judgement. One could not rule out a gradual approach to confidence-building measures, depending on specific issues and the partners involved in the dialogue.

18. At the current session, the Council should undertake a careful assessment and re-examination of the 20 substantive elements for consideration at the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean (A/46/29, annex III). The Committee should retain those elements on the list which many of its members considered to be of continuing relevance for its work. It might need to add to that list new issues that had direct implications for peace and security in a more limited geographical context. The Indian delegation was ready to work with other delegations in achieving the Committee's objectives in a spirit of consensus-building and cooperation.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.423
17 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 423rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 21 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Granting of observer status to Nepal

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO NEPAL

1. The CHAIRMAN said that a letter had been received from the Chargé d'affaires of Nepal, requesting that that country be permitted to participate as an Observer in the Committee's deliberations. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

2. It was so decided.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 (continued)

3. Mr. JUSUF (Indonesia) noted that the convening of a United Nations conference on the Indian Ocean had been postponed repeatedly, ostensibly due to the lack of participation by some permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the preparations for the conference.

4. It was the conviction of his delegation that cooperation among littoral and hinterland States, as well as external Powers, in establishing a zone of peace and security in the Indian Ocean would promote confidence-building, which, in turn, would enhance peace and security in the area. Member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were continuing their efforts to establish a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia, the attainment of which objectives was of paramount importance and mutually complementary to the establishment of a zone of peace and security in the Indian Ocean. In the improved political and security environment, fulfilment of the objectives contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would be of great benefit to the regional and external Powers, and could facilitate the peaceful settlement of a complex set of issues, leading ultimately to new areas of understanding and a new era of relationships.

5. While remaining firmly committed to the convening of a United Nations conference on the Indian Ocean as an essential instrument in implementing the Declaration, Indonesia had an open mind with regard to alternative approaches. It believed, however, that all States should participate in the work of the Committee, and appealed to those States which had not previously been able to do so to join in the Committee's deliberations forthwith. With regard to charting the Committee's future course of action, it was generally agreed that the external Powers should respect the views expressed and the positions taken by the littoral and hinterland States.

6. Mr. PALIHAKKARA (Sri Lanka) said that recent changes in the international political environment provided the possibility for new and positive developments in international cooperation. He was confident that progress could be made towards the achievement of peace, security and stability in the area, and suggested that a brainstorming session might prove useful. Manifestations of great Power rivalry in the Indian Ocean area had greatly diminished, if not ceased altogether, and despite a residual presence of extraregional strategic interests, States of the region were seeking to form new partnerships based on cooperation rather than confrontation. The concept of security, which during the cold war era had been predominantly military, had begun to be interpreted in a new and broader manner, emphasizing regional cooperation in such fields as

(Mr. Palihakkara, Sri Lanka)

socio-economic development, culture, environment and interpersonal contact. The South Asian Association for Regional Co operation (SAARC) had made considerable strides towards advancing the spirit of regionalism and achieving functional cooperation, and was committed to developing cooperative linkages with other regional groups in Asia and elsewhere.

7. There were various approaches that the Committee might take, the first being the conference approach. Thus far that approach had not produced any results. Another possibility would be to allow events to take their course, in other words, to do little or nothing. That approach undoubtedly ran counter to the current trends of promoting collective peace-building efforts. A third possibility might be an incremental one, in which countries of the Indian Ocean area, with the cooperation of other interested States, could identify new methods of promoting peace and work gradually towards that goal. While not precluding the conference, an incremental approach would allow Indian Ocean States to build on the areas of cooperation that already existed. His delegation proposed that the Committee set up a forum of Indian Ocean States to review the changing international situation and to discuss feasible first steps towards achieving a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean area. Such a forum would necessarily require the commitment, encouragement and participation of major Powers and major maritime users, which naturally had a profound interest in ensuring that the Indian Ocean area remained one of cooperation and accessibility.

8. Mr. HONG (Singapore) pointed out that the South-East Asian region had not only the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality but also the Treaty of amity and cooperation in South-East Asia, which had been endorsed by the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly as a regional confidence-building measure. That treaty provided for various mechanisms, including mediation and fact-finding, for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Committee might find it profitable to explore the possibility of drawing up a similar friendship and cooperation treaty for the Indian Ocean area, as an interim step towards the creation of the zone of peace.

9. It had become increasingly clear over the preceding three years that the old approach was not working; if the Committee failed to seek innovative and imaginative solutions to the current impasse, its days might be numbered.

10. Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia) said that his delegation welcomed resolution 47/59 and the opportunity it offered for an exploration of alternative approaches to the question of peace in the Indian Ocean. He was confident that, as the Committee forged ahead, the interest of those Western countries that had withdrawn from active participation would be rekindled. He agreed that some of the 20 points mentioned by the representative of India could be profitably utilized by the Committee. The regional disarmament paper presented to the Disarmament Commission that year also contained useful approaches to regional confidence-building. Australia had supported the creation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which would naturally have an impact on peace and security in the Indian Ocean area. In addition to the developments in the South-East Asian subregion of the Indian Ocean described by the representative of Singapore, there were non-military confidence-building measures including various regional environmental endeavours. Finally, his delegation agreed that a brainstorming session could prove fruitful.

11. Mr. SHARMA (Observer for Nepal), after thanking members of the Committee for acceding to his country's request that it be permitted to participate in deliberations as an observer, said that the ideological confrontation of the cold war was being replaced by cooperative efforts to maintain international peace and security, and that while the context had changed radically, the goal of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region remained as valid as it had been in 1971 and had assumed even greater urgency. A disturbing feature of the post-cold-war era had been the replacement of the East-West conflict by scores of smaller ones, which had blurred the thin divide between national and international problems. The Indian Ocean adjoined an extremely sensitive area, and implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace would have a crucial impact on the peace and security not only of the region but of the world as a whole.

12. There was now a clear consensus that the establishment of zones of peace under appropriate conditions determined freely by States concerned in the zone, taking into account the characteristics of the zone and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations would be an important step towards regional confidence-building measures, thereby facilitating regional arms control and disarmament measures. The establishment of zones of peace could make a great contribution towards strengthening the security of States within those zones, as well as international peace and security, and it was impossible to overemphasize its importance for the economic and social development of the States within a zone and for cooperation between them.

13. The effectiveness of zones of peace depended to a very great degree on the commitment of States outside the region to respect the status of such zones; he shared the view expressed by the representative of India that there could be no meaningful discussion of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean without the active participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users. Moreover, consensus must be reached on the geographical definition of the region.

14. Mr. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that General Assembly resolution 47/59 had directed the Committee to consider new alternative approaches leading to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration, taking into account the recent changes in the international political landscape which had provided new opportunities to strengthen international and regional peace, security and stability. It was necessary now to examine how that goal could be achieved.

15. One constructive step would be to convene a meeting of the States of the region, which would provide an opportunity to review the situation in the post-cold-war era and contribute towards measures to preserve and promote regional peace and stability. Such a meeting would complement the efforts being made within the framework of the Committee, as well as global efforts to further international peace and security.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.424
18 August 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 424th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 22 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 of 9 December 1992 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 OF 9 DECEMBER 1992 (continued)

1. Mr. WU Zhengjiang (China) said that his country had always supported the idea of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, had taken an active part in the Ad Hoc Committee's work and had spoken in favour of holding the Colombo Conference. It had hoped that the Indian Ocean would have become a zone of peace as early as possible. Unfortunately, however, the goals provided for in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace had still not been realized and the Conference on the Indian Ocean had not yet been held.

2. In order to translate into practice the noble aim of establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, the international community must exert efforts in two areas. First, the great Powers outside the region must cease their interference in the affairs of the States of the region and must respect the sovereignty and independence of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean. Those countries must relinquish any form of military presence or occupation in the Indian Ocean region, whether on land, in the air or at sea, must dismantle all military installations and must give practical expression to the provisions of the Declaration.

3. Secondly, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, equal rights, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence, the countries of the region must promote the strengthening of peace, friendship and cooperation with one another. Military force should be used only in defence of one's own territory, not as a threat to another State, and must certainly not be used as a weapon of aggression or occupation vis-à-vis another country. To safeguard security and stability in the region and to achieve the goals of the Declaration, the countries of the region must take practical steps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons or of any other weapon of mass destruction.

4. The international situation following the end of the cold war had created favourable opportunities for realizing the goal of establishing the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. In resolution 47/59, adopted at the forty-seventh session, the General Assembly had requested the Ad Hoc Committee to consider new alternative approaches leading to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, taking into account the changing international situation. A new moment had arrived in the Ad Hoc Committee's work. Full advantage must be taken of the favourable situation and, pursuant to resolution 47/59, alternative approaches to the achievement of the goals in the Declaration must be worked out.

5. His delegation noted with appreciation the proposals made by a number of delegations and considered that they should be discussed in detail with a view

(Mr. Wu Zhengjiang, China)

to the establishment of a common basis for settling existing differences of opinion and realizing the ultimate goal, namely, declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

6. The Chinese delegation would support the Chairman in his efforts to continue consultations with the countries which were no longer participating in the Ad Hoc Committee's work, with a view to persuading them to renew their participation. In the current favourable conditions, they could make their contribution to the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean and the strengthening of international peace and security.

7. Mr. MORADI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Iran attached great importance to the 1971 Declaration and the Ad Hoc Committee's work, not only because it suffered from the foreign military presence in the Indian Ocean in general and in the Persian Gulf region in particular, but also because the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean served the purpose of safeguarding regional and international peace and security. After 20 years of work the Committee had arrived at a stage where it would have to take a decision regarding its future. Many members of the Committee were not taking part in its meetings because they considered that the Declaration was out of date and that some of its provisions were no longer current. At the same time, however, they endorsed the goals of the Declaration.

8. Accordingly, it would be advisable for the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Declaration. Some of its concepts and issues of substance had maintained their validity and could be taken as a basis. At the same time, certain of its provisions needed to be reviewed in the light of the changing international situation. That might induce other members of the Ad Hoc Committee to take part in its work. It was the right time to undertake such work: the cold war was over and some of the regional conflicts had already ceased. Such being the case, a review of the Declaration and the preparation of a new document would enable the Committee to carry out its mandate.

9. In addition, it would be advisable to ask the Secretary-General, with the participation of consultant experts, to address the complex ramifications of the issues involved and differing perceptions on those issues and to propose effective, verifiable measures which could help to establish a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. Without in any way wishing to underestimate the capabilities of members of the Committee, his delegation nevertheless doubted whether the Committee, with its limited number of participants, was in a position to consider in a few days the complex ramifications of the issues involved. The definition and delimitation of the zone of peace in the Indian Ocean should be entrusted to a group established for that purpose, while the Committee itself might embark on a review of the Declaration, whose current wording was the major obstacle preventing other countries from participating in the Committee's work. In that regard, his delegation was keeping an open mind and was ready to listen to the opinions of other States.

10. Mr. NEUHAUS (Australia) said that his delegation was ready to engage in informal consultations designed to facilitate the course of the forthcoming work on issues included in the Committee's agenda. After listening with interest to

(Mr. Neuhaus, Australia)

the various proposals made, his delegation would prefer to make known its ideas at a later stage. It believed that it would be beneficial to hold informal consultations on the question of the Ad Hoc Committee's future role in the context of the First Committee during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.425
19 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 425th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 22 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 (continued)

1. Mr. YUDIN (Russian Federation) said that the end of the cold war and the emergence of a new world order based on constructive multilateral cooperation had enhanced the role and significance of the United Nations and led to a growing trend to bring to the Organization problems which could be solved only on a multilateral basis. In that context, the question inevitably arose as to whether the Committee's activities were in line with the new realities.

2. His delegation regarded the Committee as one channel for the practical implementation of measures to strengthen security in the Asian and Pacific region as well as the rest of the world and therefore believed that the Committee's work must continue. At the same time, much depended on the willingness of members to make a constructive contribution to enhancing the Committee's effectiveness.

3. The main areas of the Committee's work needed to be clearly identified. The Committee should first determine its view of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Although the Declaration reflected the realities of the early 1970s, his delegation believed that its main idea - that through regional efforts, supported and strengthened by the actions of the major world Powers and other leading users of the Indian Ocean, peace and security could be strengthened and greater stability and predictability attained in the region - remained valid, as did the concept of combining global and regional approaches to the problem of ensuring peace, security and stability.

4. A realistic approach should be worked out which reflected current conditions and balanced regional and extra-regional interests. At the regional level, agreements should be concluded among States on the non-use of force, respect for territorial integrity and the inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The zone of peace might include measures to limit the arms race in the region and reduce the armed forces of the countries of the region to the levels required to ensure their defence. The countries of the region might identify an appropriate system of monitoring compliance with such agreements. Extra-regional Powers could undertake to respect the status of the zone and consider reducing their military presence in the region. The permanent members of the Security Council could be the guarantors of the zone. Along with military and political measures, cooperation in the socio-economic, scientific and technical, environmental and other fields should be envisaged. At the same time, it would be useful to consider confidence-building measures in the Indian Ocean region.

5. Many of the proposals made in the Committee could serve as a basis for the draft final document of the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean. If it became necessary to convert the Committee into a negotiating body for that purpose, his delegation would be prepared to do so.

6. The establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean was inconceivable without the involvement of all the main users of the Indian Ocean, some of whom, unfortunately, were not participating in the Committee's work. Even so, the Committee must continue its active search for concrete solutions. It was to be

(Mr. Yudin, Russian Federation)

hoped that the progress made would elicit interest in the Committee's work on the part of all users.

7. Mr. MUSUKA (Zambia) recalled that the initiative for the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace had been taken by the Third Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in 1970. The Declaration had addressed the political and security realities of the day, in particular the military bases established in the Indian Ocean by extra-regional Powers in the context of super-Power rivalry during the cold war era. However, its main objective was to enhance the peace and security of the region and secure freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean for all time. Although the international situation had changed, the Declaration was not obsolete. The new situation called for pragmatism and realism; the Committee should seriously consider what practical measures to take in order to move forward. New approaches were needed to address the issues more effectively and diminish any lingering sentiments of mistrust, thereby helping to preserve both regional and international peace and security.

8. It was more than two decades since the General Assembly had called for the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean. It was ironic that while the Committee had more or less finalized its preparatory work, there was still no demonstrable willingness on the part of some permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the Conference. A zone of peace could not be established without their participation and concurrence.

9. It was undeniable that the events of recent years in international relations had had a positive effect on the role of the United Nations in world affairs, a situation reflected in General Assembly resolution 47/59. In keeping with that resolution, the Committee's work should reflect the current international atmosphere, which had enhanced the role of the United Nations in peace-keeping and peacemaking. The attainment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean would contribute to the preservation of international peace and security.

10. At the same time, the legitimate security concerns of the countries of the Indian Ocean region could not be ignored. Those countries should play a leading role in the establishment of the zone of peace. His delegation fully supported the proposal for a step-by-step approach to that goal. Such an approach could serve as a confidence-building measure for the countries of the region. A meeting of the States of the region was an essential step and would enable those countries to consider their security situation in the post-cold war era. Such a meeting would not duplicate but complement and revitalize the work of the Committee.

11. Mrs. BROWN-HAMMOND (Liberia) welcomed General Assembly resolution 47/59. The achievement of its objectives would be facilitated by the general improvement in international relations, especially the cessation of rivalry between the super-Powers and the rapid political changes in Europe which had created better opportunities for disarmament and the promotion of international peace and security.

12. Her delegation noted with regret the absence of several key members of the Committee. Since the successful completion of the Committee's work depended to

(Mrs. Brown-Hammond, Liberia)

a large extent on their active participation, she urged them to return and encouraged the Chairman to continue holding informal consultations with those delegations.

13. She shared the view that the maintenance of peace and security and stability in the Indian Ocean was vital, not only to the countries of the region, but to the world as a whole. Accordingly, her delegation supported the recommendation to convene a conference of the States of the Indian Ocean region to review the situation in the region, taking into account recent developments in international relations. She agreed that the Committee should review the 20 substantive elements proposed for consideration at the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean contained in document A/46/29 and update the list in accordance with recent developments.

14. Mr. NYAKI (United Republic of Tanzania) said it was regrettable that some members of the Committee were absent from the session in spite of the concerted efforts by the Chairman and the delegation of Australia to convince them to rejoin the Committee. His delegation welcomed back the delegation of the Netherlands.

15. Although the Declaration reflected certain elements of the cold war era which were no longer relevant, that was equally true of other important United Nations documents, including the Charter. It was for that reason that Member States had embarked on a process of restructuring and revitalizing the United Nations, taking into account the changes that had occurred in the international system. The United Nations had, to a large extent, been designed to address the global issues in the years after the Second World War, yet no Member State had called for its demise; instead, all Members were working together in a spirit of cooperation and partnership for the sake of a stronger and more efficient Organization. The Committee should approach General Assembly resolution 47/59 in that spirit.

16. There had already been some progress in establishing a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean. The virtual elimination of great Power rivalry in the area, albeit not the outcome of a deliberate decision by the major nuclear-weapon States, was a positive step in that direction. However, despite the greatly improved global environment and increased trust and cooperation among nations, an external military presence persisted in the region, creating suspicion and a sense of insecurity.

17. It was important for the Committee to reaffirm the basic goal of the Declaration as it began its search for new, alternative approaches to that instrument's implementation. His delegation supported the idea of convening a meeting of littoral and hinterland States which would review the 20 substantive elements for consideration at the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.426
17 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 426th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 24 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 (continued)

1. Mr. BUTLER (Australia) said that the Committee was at a crucial stage in its development, since General Assembly resolution 47/59 had provided it with new direction only six months after its very existence had seemed to be in question. That resolution was important because it had underscored the fact that the change in international relations had made new opportunities available to the Committee which should foster a new spirit of cooperation. It had also made it clear that the General Assembly believed that the Committee should continue its efforts towards developing cooperation and peace in the Indian Ocean area.

2. Australia accepted the terms of resolution 47/59 and proposed that the Committee should look at a number of issues which, taken together, would constitute the required new alternative approaches to regional cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean area, while maintaining full respect for the Declaration itself and for the work which the Committee had undertaken since the adoption of that instrument. The Committee might concentrate, among other things, on measures of political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation which could be developed between States of the region and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean. It might also consider the concept of freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean in ways that were in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It might also look at issues concerning the preservation of the region's environment, especially marine pollution and fishing methods. Lastly, it might consider fostering the establishment of a regional security dialogue through the implementation of regional confidence-building measures which would enhance the security of the region and eliminate military and non-military threats.

3. The list of possible issues was not an exhaustive one, but if the Committee was able to identify a number of such areas for discussion, they might form the basis of a broader understanding of the Indian Ocean question. The Committee would thus be adopting the new alternative approach mandated by the General Assembly. The Committee's methodology would then be the opposite of that followed in the past, when it had started with an overarching Declaration and had sought to fill in the building blocks afterwards.

4. It was important now for the Committee to begin to reach agreement on its recommendations to the General Assembly. If an approach such as he had proposed was adopted, the subject of the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, which deserved to be taken seriously by the United Nations, might survive, and the General Assembly might allow the Committee to continue its work. If the Committee did not come forward with new alternative approaches, as requested, the Assembly's view might be that the issue was no longer an important one.

5. Mr. BELIZ (Panama) said that the work of the Committee was very important and of even greater relevance in the post-cold-war era. The opportunity afforded by General Assembly resolution 47/59 should not be allowed to pass, and it was time for the Committee to make headway towards the establishment of the

(Mr. Beliz, Panama)

Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, taking as a basis the various other zones of peace which were being established around the world. Circumstances would never be perfect, and a start had to be made.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.159/SR.427
18 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 427th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 25 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka)

CONTENTS

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/59 (continued)

The CHAIRMAN said that, there being no delegation wishing to make a statement, the Committee would continue the consideration of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 in informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.